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SUBJECT: GDR THEORIES OF NATION AND NATIONALITY

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1. AS CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES
PROGRESS, THE GDR CONTINUES TO PUT FORWARD ITS VIEWS
ON THE QUESTION OF GERMAN NATIONALITY TO MEET FRG CLAIMS
UNDER ARTICLE 116 OF THE FRG CONSTITUTION TO REPRESENT
ALL CITIZENS OF GERMAN NATIONALITY. IN A SIGNED ARTICLE
BY PROFESSORS ALFRED KOSING AND WALTER SCHMIDT OF THE
SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
APPEARING FEBRUARY 15 IN PARTY ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND,
THE GDR HAS ATTEMPTED TO REFINE AND HISTORICALLY
JUSTIFY THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN "NATION" AND "NATIONALITY"
ENUNCIATE BY PARTY CHIEF ERICH HONECKER AT THE 13TH
MEETING OF THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER 1974.

2. WHILE HONECKER IN HIS DECEMBER REPORT TO THE SED
CENTRAL COMMITTEE CHARACTERIZED THE NATIONALITY OF

MOST GDR CITIZENS AS "GERMAN", HE ARGUED THAT CITIZEN-
SHIP DERIVED NOT FROM NATIONALITY BUT FROM THE NATION.

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THUS, ALTHOUGH EAST AND WEST GERMANS SHARED A COMMON

NATIONALITY, THEY BELONGED TO DIFFERENT NATIONS, ONE SOCIALISTIC, THE OTHER CAPITALISTIC, AND ACQUIRED DIFFERING CITIZENSHIP AS A RESULT. PROFESSORS KOSING AND SCHMIDT HAVE NOW EXPANDED UPON HONECKER'S STATEMENT TO PRESENT A MORE COMPLETE DEFINITION OF "NATION" AND "NATIONALITY". THEY BREAK DOWN THE TERM NATIONAL INTO FIVE COMPONENTS: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL, AND ETHNIC. IN THEIR VIEW, "NATIONALITY" REFERS ONLY TO THE COMPLEX OF ETHNIC FACTORS AND REPRESENTS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATION. THUS, "NATIONALITY" IS SUBSUMED UNDER THE LARGER TERM "NATION".

3. FOR KOSING AND SCHMIDT THE SALIENT FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATION ARE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL, NOT ETHNIC. THUS, AFTER 30 YEARS OF DIFFERING ECONOMIC SYSTEMS IN EAST AND WEST GERMANY, TWO SEPARATE NATIONS HAVE ARISEN: THE SOCIALIST GERMAN NATION IN THE GDR AND THE CAPITALIST GERMAN NATION IN THE FRG. AS A RESULT, FRG ATTEMPTS TO REPRESENT GDR CITIZENS ON THE BASIS OF A COMMON GERMAN NATIONALITY ARE BASED ON A FALSE EQUATION OF THE TERMS "NATIONALITY" AND "NATION" AND ON A MISTAKEN OVEREMPHASIS ON THE ETHNIC FACTOR IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. COMMENT: IMPLICIT IN THE GDR THEORY OF NATIONALITY IS THAT CITIZENSHIP DERIVES FROM THE NATION, DEFINED LARGELY IN TERMS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS, AND NOT FROM NATIONALITY IN THE SENSE OF A COMMON ETHNIC BASE. RECENT NEUES DEUTSCHLAND EDITORIALS HAVE ARGUED THAT THE FRG CLAIM TO REPRESENT ALL CITIZENS OF GERMAN NATIONALITY IS ACTUALLY A RETURN TO A GROSS-DEUTSCHLAND CONCEPT THAT, IF TAKEN TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION, WOULD INCLUDE CITIZENS OF GERMAN NATIONALITY IN AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, AND EASTERN EUROPE.COOPER

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